

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226561 TOSEC 270043

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, EAIR, YO, US

SUBJECT: TWA SKYJACKING

1. I BELIEVE I SHOULD CALL IN YUGOSLAV CHARGE PETKOVIC TO RESPOND OFFICIALLY TO ACCUSATIONS OF THE GOY CONVEYED IN PETKOVIC'S SEPTEMBER 11 DEMARCHE TO YOU AND TO SUBSEQUENT TANJUG COMMENTARY. THERE FOLLOWS A SUMMARY OF PETKOVIC'S DEMARCHE AND OF THE TANJUG STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS OF MY PROPOSED REPRESENTATION TO PETKOVIC. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OBTAINING THE SECRETARY'S AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS PROPOSED ACTION.

2. IN HIS DEMARCHE PETKOVIC SAID THE GOY REGARDS DISSEMINATION OF THE SKYJACKERS' DOCUMENT AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT AGAINST THE INTEREST OF YUGOSLAVIA AND DEMANDED THAT ITS PUBLICATION BE STOPPED. HE PROTESTED THE
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REPORTED (BY REUTERS) FBI DISTRIBUTION OF THE STATEMENT

TO THE PRESS. THE GOY REITERATED THAT THIS LATEST
TERRORIST CRIME CONFIRMS ITS EARLIER WARNINGS TO US
AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET UNCOVERED THOSE RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR THE EARLIER CRIMES. IN YOUR "UNINSTRUCTED
REACTION" YOU INDICATED THERE MIGHT BE A CONSIDERED
RESPONSE LATER. YOU EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT

PETKOVIC HAD NOT COME TO PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT COULD
HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN THE CRISIS BUT THAT HE HAD
INSTEAD LECTURED US AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE CONCERNED
ABOUT SOME 50 LIVES. YOU POINTED OUT THAT THE GOY
STATEMENT HAD NO REFERENCE TO THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT.
YOU FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THE GOY PROTEST SOUNDED
HOLLOW AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THEIR LENIENCY TOWARD
CARLOS. YOU ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR THE
USG TO KEEP AMERICAN PRESS FROM PUBLISHING. YOU NEITHER
CONFIRMED NOR DENIED THE REPORT ABOUT THE FBI'S POSSIBLY
PROVIDING THE TEXT TO THE PRESS, BUT YOU DECLARED THAT
HANDLING THE DOCUMENT WAS IN ANY CASE OUR BUSINESS AND
NOT THAT OF THE GOY.

3. EMBASSY BELGRADE HAS REPORTED A TANJUG STATEMENT
BROADCAST ON YUGOSLAV TELEVISION AT 1930 ON SEPTEMBER
11 CONTAINING SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE USG RELATIVE
TO THE SKYJACKING. TANJUG ATTRIBUTED THE SKYJACKING
TO "FASCIST YUGOSLAV IMMIGRANTS" AND SUGGESTED A
LINK BETWEEN "INFLUENTIAL, EMOTIONAL, REACTIONARY
FORCES AND GROUPS OF MERCENARIES, TERRORISTS, AND
MURDERERS." THE COMMENTARY ADDED THAT THIS "OPEN
ACTION AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA" REPRESENTED A CALCULATED MOVE
BY "REACTIONARY MACHINERY OF CERTAIN FORCES" IN THE
UNITED STATES. IT FURTHER LINKED THE SKYJACKING WITH
CONTINUATION OF THE "ANTI-YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN IN RE-
ACTIONARY CENTERS" WHICH WAS STRENGTHENED ON THE EVE
OF THE NONALIGNED SUMMIT AT COLOMBO. CONTINUING,
THE STATEMENT BRANDED THE FBI AS AN INSTRUMENT IN THE
SERVICES OF TERRORISM AND CONTINUED THAT ITS ROLE AS
A DISTRIBUTOR OF "CHEAP ANTI-YUGOSLAV SCRIBBLING"
IS IMPERMISSIBLE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF U.S.-YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS.

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4. EMBASSY BELGRADE'S REPORT ADDED A PORTION OF TANJUG
COMMENTARY THAT WAS NOT BROADCAST TO THE EFFECT THAT
IT IS "HIGH TIME" FOR THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO
DO SOMETHING "SERIOUS, RESOLUTE, AND LASTING" TO
PREVENT THIS ANTI-YUGOSLAV ACTIVITY. IT CONCLUDED
THAT THE YUGOSLAV PUBLIC IS CONVINCED THAT THE USG
CAN PREVENT ACTIVITIES HARMFUL TO GOOD RELATIONS, BUT

THIS PUBLIC WILL APPRECIATE ONLY CONCRETE ACTIONS
AND NOT WORDS.

5. SUBSEQUENT TANJUG STATEMENT BY ITS DIPLOMATIC
EDITOR RELEASED SEPTEMBER 12 REFLECTED TONING DOWN
IN SOME BUT NOT ALL RESPECTS AS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS
DAY'S STATEMENTS. SEPTEMBER 12 STATEMENT

EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT NO TWA PASSENGER OR CREW MEMBER
HAD BEEN INJURED BUT NOTED THAT HIJACKERS HAD CAUSED
ONE REGRETTABLE DEATH AND INJURIES TO SEVERAL OTHERS.
IT QUESTIONED "U.S. CHANGE IN POLICY" TO NEGOTIATE WITH
HIJACKERS BUT AVOIDED USE OF TERM "UNFRIENDLY ACT".
IT DID NOT MENTION FBI DISTRIBUTION OF THE HIJACKERS'
COMMUNIQUE AND STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AND DID NOT
ATTACK THE FBI BY NAME. HOWEVER, IT DID HARP ON PAST
U.S. TOLERANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE "FASCIST
TERRORIST" GROUPS AND REPEATED THAT NO ONE HAD EVER
BEEN CONVICTED IN THE U.S. OF AN ATTACK ON YUGOSLAV
PREMISES. TANJUG ALSO REFERRED TO "POWERFUL AND
INFLUENTIAL AMERICAN REACTIONARY CIRCLES" WHICH ARE
TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A "REASSESSMENT OF PRESENT
AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA" DESPITE THE
OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED POLICY, FREQUENTLY REAFFIRMED;
OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND THE USG.

6. I PROPOSE TO MAKE THESE POINTS TO PETKOVIC:

--- MY GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS YUGOSLAV CONCERN ABOUT
IMPLICATIONS THIS INCIDENT HOLDS FOR ITS INTERESTS.
I AM NEVERTHELESS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE GOY THROUGH
YOUR DEMARCHE TO MR. EAGLEBURGER ON SEPTEMBER 11,
SAW FIT TO LECTURE US IN VERY UNHELPFUL TERMS AT A
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TIME WHEN RESPONSIBLE U.S. AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS
AND THE AIRLINE ITSELF WERE GRAPPLING WITH THE
CRISIS. MY GOVERNMENT IS GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT
THE GOY'S CONTINUING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US, AS EX-
PRESSED BY TANJUG. THE INSINUATIONS THAT ELEMENTS
OF THE USG ARE IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH AN ANTI-
YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN OR THAT THEY HAD ANY KIND OF
INTENTIONAL ROLE IN ALLOWING DISSEMINATION OF
CROATIAN SEPARATIST PROPAGANDA ARE FALSE AND UTTER
NONSENSE.

7. CONCERNING GOY SUGGESTIONS THAT WE ARE NOT ACTIVELY
PREVENTING ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM, I REAFFIRM WHAT
WE HAVE TOLD YOU COUNTLESS TIMES. OUR LAW ENFORCE-
MENT AGENCIES ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING THEIR INVESTI-

GATION OF PREVIOUS CRIMES. OUR SECURITY AGENCIES HAVE RESPONDED QUICKLY AND ENERGETICALLY ON REPEATED OCCASIONS TO PROVIDE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION TO YOUR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS. IN THE PRESENT INSTANCE, WE HAVE WORKED ACTIVELY AND SUCCESSFULLY, ON ONE HAND, TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS AND RETURN THEM TO SAFETY AND, ON THE OTHER, TO APPREHEND THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS

CRIME. THEY HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO OUR CUSTODY AND WILL BE PROSECUTED.

8. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE USG FINDS IT INTOLERABLE THAT THE GOY WOULD RESORT TO SUCH FALSE ACCUSATIONS AS CONVEYED IN YOUR DEMARCHE AND LATER BY TANJUG, ESPECIALLY WHEN, SO RECENTLY, THE GOY ITSELF FAILED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO APPREHEND THE KNOWN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST CRIMINAL "CARLOS", DESPITE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF HIS PRESENCE IN BELGRADE.

9. IN UNDERSECRETARY HABIB'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI IN EARLY AUGUST WE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO PUT THE POLEMICS BEHIND US. WE HAD HOPED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS LIKE-MINDED, AND WE ARE THEREFORE EXTREMELY DISTURBED BY ITS CONTINUED UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS
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WITH YUGOSLAVIA. WE HOPE AND EXPECT THE GOY WILL CEASE SUCH UNFOUNDED AND ILL-ADVISED PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS.

10. SONNENFELDT CONCURS. ROBINSON

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